

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

### **February 7, 2007**

#### **1. and 2. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Gene Reeder called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the December 6, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written. The Chair took a moment to introduce the Faculty Senate's new Parliamentarian, Mark Tompkins (Political Science).

#### **3. Invited Speakers**

**Dr. Jim Augustine, University Ombudsman**, gave a brief presentation outlining the functions of the newly formed Office of the University Ombudsman. This office provides information to faculty members who have concerns and conflicts. For more information, visit <http://www.sc.edu/ombuds/>.

Chair Gene Reeder took a moment to introduce Dr. Christine Curtis, the new Vice Provost for Faculty Development.

#### **4. Reports of Committees**

##### **a. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Matthew Miller, Chair**

Professor Miller (Mathematics) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, and the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management. A correction was made to the distributed text as follows: on pages 13-14, the last 6 lines in the "proposed column" were replaced with the last 6 lines in the "proposed" column found on page 10 [see Attachment 1]. After a suggestion by Professor Dorothy Disterheft (English) and approval from Professor Ann Kingsolver (Anthropology), the description for ANTH 345 (page 9) was amended to read as follows:

**ANTH 345** Historical Archaeology. (3) Introduction to theory and methods of historical archaeology. Focuses on how archaeological research complements documentary evidence, especially for marginalized groups.

All motions from the committee carried.

##### **b. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Christine Whitaker, Chair**

Professor Whitaker (School of Medicine Library) outlined components of a grade forgiveness policy that will soon be under consideration for adoption system-wide. The actual policy has not yet been written, but would include the following major points:

- The policy would allow undergraduate students to retake up to two courses in which a grade of D or F was received.
- Both grades would remain on the student transcript, but only the second grade would be used for cumulative GPA (grade point average) calculation.
- Individual program requirements would take precedence over grade forgiveness guidelines.

This policy would require a change to the University Bulletin and would therefore be applicable to all USC campuses. Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Whitaker asked that the Faculty Senate vote in support of a grade forgiveness program so that steps may be taken towards the creation of an actual policy acceptable to all campuses. After some discussion and clarification, a motion was made to endorse the key components of a grade forgiveness policy as outlined above. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

## **5. Reports of Officers**

### **President Andrew Sorensen**

The President welcomed everyone and thanked the Senators for their interest and commitment to the University. He also discussed the following:

- President Sorensen recently appeared as a guest on a television show hosted by Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell. The purpose of this episode was to discuss USC's Endowed Chairs programs in an effort to protect the \$30 million that support the programs.
- The President and Speaker Harrell also recently discussed the bond issue. A formula has been developed by all 33 public institutions of higher education in the state for bond support for capital projects. Legislators are currently debating the issue, and President Sorensen is working fervently to persuade the Speaker and other members of the House and Senate of the University's needs for capital improvements.
- President Sorensen hosted a breakfast at McCutchen House for the Speaker and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee and their staff. Again he made a pitch for the University's needs. He is optimistic that there will be a salary increase for faculty and staff. There are rumblings of a tuition cap but thus far no bill has been proposed. The President complimented Dean Pat Moody for the delicious breakfast that was prepared and served by students of the College of Hospitality, Retail, & Sport Management.
- The President conveyed his appreciation for Dr. Jim Augustine's work as University Ombudsman.
- The President thanked the members of the University Committee on Tenure and Promotions for the huge amount of work they do in reviewing tenure and promotion files.
- Some construction on campus has met with delays due to unforeseen circumstances such as the discovery of asbestos in the basements of the

“Honeycombs.” Thomas Cooper Library will now build one structure behind the current building as opposed to two wings on either side. Construction costs on the Discovery Center and the Horizon building are well above original estimates, partly due to dramatic increases in the costs of concrete and steel.

Professor Laura Woliver (Political Science) asked the President if he would be willing to ask the legislators of South Carolina to ensure that there is some diversity on the USC Board of Trustees. He said that he would gladly pass the request along, particularly as this is also a frequent request of Mrs. Sorensen.

### **Provost Mark Becker**

Provost Becker conveyed his appreciation for Dr. Jim Augustine’s work as University Ombudsman. He also welcomed Dr. Christine Curtis in her new position as Vice Provost for Faculty Development. He said that he is very pleased to see both of these initiatives come to fruition. The Provost also discussed the following:

- The search for Dean of the Graduate School is in process. A large number of applications have been received and are under review.
- The search for Dean of the Moore School of Business is also underway. Applications are being received and reviewed by the search committee.
- Candidates are currently being interviewed for Campus Dean of the College of Pharmacy.
- Dr. Fred Medway (Psychology) is leading the review and revision of the University’s general education curriculum in preparation for the 2011 SACS accreditation. A recent report from Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education, indicates that universities and colleges across the nation need to do a better job of describing what it is they do, how they assess it, and making that information transparent to the general public – particularly to students and their parents. This has spurred national discussion about what students actually get out of a college education. Hence, the accreditation process itself is going to be under scrutiny during the time USC will be evaluated. Steps will soon be taken towards defining a new general education curriculum at USC that will focus on the definition of competencies, their outcomes, and their assessment. The Provost encouraged the faculty to direct questions about this process to Professor Medway.

### **6. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **7. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **8. Announcements**

Chair Reeder thanked the Senators for dutifully representing their units, for attending meetings regularly, and for sharing information about the University with colleagues.

The next meeting will be held March 7, 2007 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

### **9. Adjournment.**

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.